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Agenda item 20 (b)
Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Egypt:* draft resolution

Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados,[2] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[6] the outcome document of the United Nations

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[7] the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[8] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[9] and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10] as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Reaffirming also the Paris Agreement,[11] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[13]

Recalling also the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[14]

Recalling further its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action", adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, reaffirming in this regard the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal,[14]

Taking into account all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004, 61/197 of 20 December 2006, 63/214 of 19 December 2008, 65/155 of 20 December 2010, 67/205 of 21 December 2012, 69/216 of 19 December 2014 and 71/224 of 21 December 2016,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[15]

Recalling also the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983,[16] and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[17] which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need

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[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.
[8] Resolution 69/15, annex.
[9] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[10] Resolution 70/1.
[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.
[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[13] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.
[14] Resolution S-22/2, annex.
[15] Resolution 60/1.
[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.
[17] Ibid., vol. 1833, No. 31363.

to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity[18] and other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora[19] and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,[20]

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[21]

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems, and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

Recognizing also that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

Noting that the Caribbean Sea, when compared with all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the potential increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes, which increase their sustainable development challenges,

Welcoming the initiative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to establish a debt swap task force so that Caribbean economies can mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change while trying to reduce the debt burden,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of resources,

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[18] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[19] Ibid., vol. 993, No. 14537.

[20] Ibid., vol. 996, No. 14583.

[21] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Recalling the call upon all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by, inter alia, accelerating actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, while at the same time recognizing that small island developing States are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of marine pollution,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the safe transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity of and dynamic interaction and competition among socioeconomic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote the integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the significant progress made on regional ocean governance through the formulation of the strategic action programme of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project, endorsed by ministers in 21 countries of the region,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the States members and associate members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to relevant international law,

Recalling the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work and its contribution to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area and of the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to international law;

2. *Notes* the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area

in the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

3. *Reaffirms its support* for the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and its governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to enhance their support, including financial, technical and capacity-building assistance, as appropriate, to Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

4. *Welcomes* the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and invites the international community to continue and to enhance its support, as appropriate, to the Commission, including through the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technical support, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of experience in the areas of work of the Commission;

5. *Invites* the international community to support the efforts of the Caribbean Sea Commission to establish a databank which with the aim of improving the management of the specific emerging critical issues related to the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea through the sharing of management experiences and project resource data, including, but not limited to, the prediction, monitoring and management of sargassum seaweed inundation faced by the Caribbean;

6. *Looks forward* to the convening of the eighth summit of the Association of Caribbean States, to be held in Nicaragua in March 2019, at which the plan of action for the period 2019–2021, which will include measures to support and promote the preservation and sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea, will be adopted;

7. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations, as appropriate, in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and pollution from the illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

9. *Invites* the Association of Caribbean States to submit to the Secretary-General a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;

10. *Calls upon* all States to become parties to the relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

11. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, the Special Area designation for the wider Caribbean region under annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto,[22] which entered into force in May 2011;

[22] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1340, No. 22484.

12. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

13. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity,[18] to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

14. *Notes with deep concern* that invasive alien species, such as *Pterois miles* and *P. volitans*, known as lionfish, constitute an emerging threat to biodiversity in the wider Caribbean region, and urges the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide assistance and support in addressing this issue in the region;

15. *Also notes with deep concern* the sargassum seaweed influx and its negative impact on the people, the territory and the economy of the Caribbean, as well as the deterioration of the coral reefs;

16. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing those conventions and protocols effectively;

17. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to actively support the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States for the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

18. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years, in particular the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and invites Member States and other partners to support early warning systems in the region;

20. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, on the basis of their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

21. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism in the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc, Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

22. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of a

human resources capacity at different levels and to develop research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

23. *Calls upon* Member States to improve, as a matter of priority, their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

24. *Encourages* the international community and the United Nations system, in line with their programming priorities, to support initiatives aimed at addressing mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in the wider Caribbean region included in the Plan of Action for 2016–2018;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, under the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, emphasizing the three dimensions of sustainable development, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such, without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations.

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (d)
Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Egypt:* draft resolution

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012, 68/212 of 20 December 2013, 69/220 of 19 December 2014, 70/205 of 22 December 2015, 71/228 of 21 December 2016 and 72/219 of 20 December 2017 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also, in full, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[1] and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention,[2] acknowledging that they are the primary international, intergovernmental forums for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressing determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognizing that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noting with concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways,

Recalling further the Paris Agreement, which, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, thereof, will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

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differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

Acknowledging that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority for developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and bearing in mind that the provision of scaled-up financial resources should aim to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation,

Welcoming the convening of the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the third part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in Katowice, Poland, from 2 to 14 December 2018,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7] the outcomes of the thirteenth to twenty-third sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the third to thirteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,[8] the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016,[9] the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,[10] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[11] the Mauritius Declaration[12] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[13] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[14] the Sendai Declaration and

[3] Resolution 55/2.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 60/1.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[9] Resolution 70/294, annex.

[10] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

[11] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[12] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[13] Ibid., annex II.

[14] Resolution 69/15, annex.

the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[15] and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[16]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Expressing concern over the findings in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels,[17] which showed that an additional 0.5 degrees Celsius of warming compared with present levels is associated with further detectable changes in climate and weather extremes, including warming of extreme temperatures in many regions, increases in the frequency, intensity and/or amount of heavy precipitation in several regions and an increase in the intensity or frequency of droughts in some regions, with some vulnerable regions, including small islands and least developed countries, projected to experience high, multiple interrelated climate risks even at global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius,

Expressing concern also over the finding in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that showed that estimates of the global emissions outcome of current nationally stated mitigation ambitions as submitted under the Paris Agreement would lead to global greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 of 52 to 58 GtCO2eq yr, that the pathways reflecting these ambitions would not limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, even if supplemented by very challenging increases in the scale and ambition of emissions reductions after 2030, and that avoiding overshoot and reliance on future large-scale deployment of carbon dioxide removal can only be achieved if global carbon dioxide emissions start to decline well before 2030, which would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings) and industrial systems,

Taking note of the Green Climate Fund and its initial resource mobilization process, making it the largest dedicated climate fund, and its approval of 3.7 billion United States dollars in funding to support the implementation of 76 climate change adaptation and mitigation projects and programmes in 79 developing countries,

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[15] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[16] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[17] "Special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty, summary for policymakers".

stressing its goal of ensuring efficient access to its resources through simplified approval procedures and enhancing readiness support, which will help to deliver outcomes in developing countries so as to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help them adapt to the impacts of climate change, reiterating the objectives and guiding principles of the Fund, including a gender-sensitive approach in its process and operations, and recognizing the need for the Fund to establish a clear replenishment process that will allow it to guarantee its financial sustainability over time and channel the financial commitments from developed countries under the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[18]

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017–2030,[19] and acknowledging that all types of forests contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation, while noting the existing framework on forests under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Noting the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[20] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[21] as appropriate, while respecting their individual mandates,

Noting also the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to addressing the challenge of, inter alia, climate change, within its mandate and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders,

Recalling its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, reaffirming in this regard the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recognizing that, in undertaking its work, the United Nations should promote the protection of the global climate for the well-being of present and future generations of humankind,

Welcoming the entry into force on 1 January 2019 of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer[22], also welcoming its ratification by 55 countries, while encouraging further ratifications as soon as possible, and further welcoming the Thirtieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held from 5 to 9 November 2018 in Quito,

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[18] Resolution 71/256, annex

[19] See resolution 71/285.

[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[21] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[22] UNEP/OzL.Pro.28/12, annex I.

Noting the contribution of the International Civil Aviation Organization to global efforts to combat climate change, and noting also the contribution of the International Maritime Organization in this regard,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, further threatening food security, water supply and livelihoods and efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and achieve sustainable development, recognizes the substantial risks posed by climate change to health, and emphasizes in this regard that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent global priority, in accordance with the principles, provisions and commitments deriving from the international agreements on climate change;

2. *Welcomes* the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, presided over by the Government of Fiji, in Bonn, Germany from 6 to 17 November 2017, and recalls the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by the Government of Morocco in Marrakech from 7 to 18 November 2016;

3. *Recalls* the early entry into force, on 4 November 2016, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[2] and encourages all its parties to fully implement the Agreement;

4. *Also recalls* that the Paris Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production, and making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, as outlined in article 2, paragraph 1, of the Agreement;

5. *Welcomes* the nationally determined contributions submitted to date, and recalls that the regular updating of such contributions should reflect the highest possible level of ambition, in the light of different national circumstances, and should provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding, in accordance with the relevant decisions;

6. *Urges* the completion of the programme of work of the Paris Agreement, ensuring that the outcome is both fully operationalized and reflects the delicate balance of the Agreement, including issues related to adaptation, mitigation and the means of implementation, stresses the importance of reflecting the commitment of all Parties to fully implement the Agreement within their respective responsibilities and capabilities, with developed countries taking the lead role on both action and support, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in accordance with relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the outcomes of the facilitative dialogue of 2018, known as the Talanoa dialogue, and taking into account the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;

7. *Emphasizes* the need for collective efforts to promote sustainable development in its three dimensions in an innovative, coordinated, environmentally sound, open and shared manner;

8. *Recognizes* that improved access to international climate finance is essential for supporting adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development for developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;

9. *Reiterates* the call made in the declaration "Our ocean, our future: call for action"[23] for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

10. *Acknowledges* the work undertaken under the auspices of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action,[24] and encourages non-party stakeholders to scale up their efforts to address and respond to climate change;

11. *Looks forward* to the Secretary-General's climate summit called for by the Secretary-General, to be held in New York in 2019;

12. *Also looks forward* to the convening by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level meeting during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on the issue of the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[25]

13. *Reiterates* the resolve of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision 1/CP.19,[26] to accelerate the full implementation of the decisions constituting the agreed outcome pursuant to its decision 1/CP.13[27] and to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period in order to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts under the Convention by all parties;

14. *Welcomes* the further acceptance or ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol[28] by 117 countries, up from 95 countries one year ago, expresses great concern that the Doha Amendment has not yet entered into force, and urges further acceptance or ratification as soon as possible for its prompt implementation;

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[29]

16. *Recognizes* the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, and in that regard takes note of decisions 2/CP.19, 2/CP.20,[30] 1/CP.21[31] and 3/CP.22[32] adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Warsaw International Mechanism

[23] See resolution 71/312, annex.
[24] See FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1.
[25] Resolution 70/1.
[26] See FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1.
[27] See FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1.
[28] See FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/13/Add.1.
[29] A/73/255, sect. I.
[30] See FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.2.
[31] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1.
[32] See FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1.

for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, as well as article 8 of the Paris Agreement;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of Poland of the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the third part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in Katowice, Poland, from 2 to 14 December 2018;

18. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Brazil to host the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, from 11 to 22 November 2019;

19. *Urges* Member States, taking into account that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by climate change owing to gender inequalities and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods, to promote the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources towards achieving the full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, and stresses the need to address the challenges posed by climate change that affect women and girls in particular, including through the implementation of the first gender action plan adopted by the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with a view to advancing towards the goal of mainstreaming a gender perspective into climate action;

20. *Recalls* the action plan for integrating sustainable development practices into Secretariat-wide operations and facilities management submitted by the Secretary-General and endorsed by resolution 72/219,[33] and requests the Secretary-General to report on its implementation and improvement achievements to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session;

21. *Urges* the full operationalization of the local communities and indigenous peoples platform for the acknowledgement of their valuable voice and support of the spreading of their knowledge in the fight on climate change;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;

23. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session.

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[33] A/72/82.

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 17
Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

Egypt:* draft resolution

Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006, 62/182 of 19 December 2007, 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010, 66/184 of 22 December 2011, 67/195 of 21 December 2012, 68/198 of 20 December 2013, 69/204 of 19 December 2014, 70/184 of 22 December 2015, 71/212 of 21 December 2016 and 72/200 of 20 December 2017,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, 2009/7 of 24 July 2009, 2010/2 of 19 July 2010, 2011/16 of 26 July 2011, 2012/5 of 24 July 2012, 2013/9 of 22 July 2013, 2014/27 of 16 July 2014, 2015/26 of 22 July 2015, 2016/22 of 27 July 2016 and 2018/28 of 24 July 2018, and taking note of Council resolution 2017/21 of 6 July 2017 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its cor mitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Please recycle

Recalling its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[1]

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development, and as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation for development, in analysing how science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, serve as enablers of the 2030 Agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning, sharing lessons learned and best practices, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy, the environment and society, and drawing attention to new and emerging technologies,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[2] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[3] and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[4] and endorsed by the Assembly,[5]

Noting the references to information and communications technologies contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and reiterating calls for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society process and the 2030 Agenda, as well as other relevant intergovernmental outcomes,

Recalling the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[6] held in New York on 15 and 16 December 2015, in which it took stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, addressed potential information and communications technology gaps and identified areas for continued focus,

Reaffirming its common desire and commitment to the World Summit on the Information Society vision as laid out in the Geneva Declaration of Principles,

Recognizing that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies, stressing the need to address prevailing challenges to bridge the digital divides, both between

[1] Resolution 71/256, annex.
[2] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.
[3] See resolution 59/220.
[4] See A/60/687.
[5] See resolution 60/252.
[6] Resolution 70/125.

and within countries and between women and men, and between girls and boys, and to harness information and communications technologies for development, and recalling the need to emphasize quality of access to bridge digital and knowledge divides, using a multidimensional approach that includes speed, stability, affordability, language, training, capacity-building, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,[7]

Noting the call for the continuation of annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Economic and Social Council, and reaffirming the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit,

Noting also the holding of the twenty-first session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 14 to 18 May 2018, and looking forward to the twenty-second session, which will have as priority themes "The impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development" and "The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science",

Taking note with appreciation of the convening by the Secretary-General of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation in July 2018 to advance proposals to strengthen cooperation in the digital space, welcoming the upcoming regional consultations that will take place in 2019, and looking forward to its report, with the expectation that it will include action-oriented recommendations to harness the potential of digital technologies and cooperation to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, bridge the digital gap between developed and developing countries and improve global governance in this area,

Noting the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, jointly organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme,

Taking note of the report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development entitled *The State of Broadband 2017: Broadband Catalysing Sustainable Development*, which provides an evaluation of the progress made towards achieving the Broadband Commission's advocacy targets for broadband and the state of broadband development worldwide, noting the need to bridge digital divides, and taking note of the report of the special session of the Commission, entitled "Working together to connect the next 1.5 billion by 2020", in which the Commission noted that less than half the world's population is currently connected to the Internet and fewer than 1 in 10 people in the least developed countries are connected,

Taking note also of the Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and the recommendations for action in bridging the gender digital divide contained in its progress report, namely, understanding the context of the divide through sex-disaggregated data, integrating a gender perspective into strategies, policies, plans and budgets, addressing barriers,

[7] A/73/66-E/2018/10.

including access, affordability, safety, digital skills and relevance, and collaboration and sharing good practices, and taking note further of the report of the Working Group on Education of the Broadband Commission entitled "Digital skills for life and work", which highlights the emergence of a new global skills gap in which gender, class, geography and age can have a significant impact on whether a person is able to harness new technologies and presents strategies for ensuring that all groups of people can develop those skills,

Noting the holding of the first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy in Geneva from 4 to 6 October 2017, and looking forward to its policy recommendations on what developing countries need in order to build competitive advantages through e-commerce and the digital economy, what developing countries can do in order to strengthen their physical and technology infrastructure and how developed countries can partner with developing countries, in the most impactful way, to maximize opportunities with regard to youth employment and address challenges relating to e-commerce and the digital economy, in order to strengthen the development dimension,

Recognizing the fact that information and communications technologies are critical enablers of economic development and investment, with consequential benefits for employment and social welfare, by lowering barriers to economic participation, and that the increasing pervasiveness of information and communications technologies within society has had profound impacts on the ways in which Governments deliver services, businesses relate to consumers and citizens participate in public and private life,

Stressing, however, that recent progress notwithstanding, important and growing digital divides remain between and within developed and developing countries in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies and access to broadband, stressing also the urgent need to close digital divides, including with regard to such issues as the affordability of the Internet, and to ensure that the benefits of information and communications technologies, including new technologies, are available to all, in this regard reaffirming its commitment to significantly increase access to information and communications technologies and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in the least developed countries by 2020, and noting the many efforts to help bridge digital divides and expand access, including the Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technologies Development,

Noting with great concern the fact that a gender digital divide persists in women's access to and use of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development, and in this regard welcoming the many initiatives that focus on access, skills and leadership to promote the equal participation of women and girls in the digital age such as the International Girls in ICT Day of the International Telecommunication Union and the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age, known as the Equals Partnership,

Recognizing the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support, with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society,

Noting that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile internet and mobile-based services, cybersecurity, the gender gap,

the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people,

Reaffirming that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, and emphasizing that progress towards the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society should be considered not only as a function of economic development and the spreading of information and communications technologies but also as a function of progress with respect to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming also that Internet governance, including the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits held in Geneva and Tunis,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in 2006, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007, in Hyderabad, India, in 2008, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, in Vilnius in 2010, in Nairobi in 2011, in Baku in 2012, in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014, in João Pessoa, Brazil, in 2015, in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2016, and in Geneva, in 2017,

Welcoming also the establishment of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, based on the proposal by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding the structure and composition of the Working Group, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015 and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2017/21,

Noting the holding by the International Telecommunication Union, in partnership with 34 other United Nations agencies and bodies, of the second edition of the Artificial Intelligence for Good Global Summit in Geneva from 15 to 17 May 2018, which provided a platform for Governments, United Nations agencies, civil society, the private sector and artificial intelligence experts to discuss the ethical, technical, societal and policy issues related to artificial intelligence, in order to harness its potential to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Noting also that rapid technological advancements present opportunities and challenges, and that Governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society and the technical and academic communities should take into account the social, economic, ethical, cultural and technical issues related to rapid technological advancements in order to understand how to harness their potential to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit on the Information Society process since its inception, and recognizing that the effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders, within their respective roles and responsibilities, especially with balanced representation from developing countries, have been and continue to be vital in developing the information society,

Conscious of the challenges faced by States in preventing and combating the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, including by terrorists, and emphasizing the need to continue international cooperation in this regard and to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities, at their

request, for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of such use in accordance with national and international law,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, trade and development, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

2. *Welcomes* the remarkable evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both the public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interactions, enabled new business models and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while noting the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion;

3. *Recognizes* the potential of information and communications technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[8] and other internationally agreed development goals, noting that they can accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, accordingly urges all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and requests United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Reaffirms* its commitment to bridging digital and knowledge divides, recognizes that its approach must be multidimensional and include an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasizing the quality of that access, and acknowledges that speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities are now core elements of quality and that high-speed broadband is already an essential enabler of sustainable development;

5. *Stresses* the important role played by the private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

6. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders from both developed and developing countries, within their respective roles and responsibilities, to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva[2] and Tunis[4] phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed

[8] Resolution 70/1.

countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

7. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Also notes* that the digital economy is an important and growing part of the global economy and that connectivity is correlated with increases in gross domestic product, and recognizes the critical importance of expanding the participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy;

9. *Urges* a continued focus on maximizing development gains from e-commerce, through initiatives such as eTrade for All, launched at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, which provides a new approach to trade development through electronic exchanges by allowing developing countries to more easily navigate the supply of technical assistance for building capacity in e-commerce readiness and by enabling donors to have a clear picture of the programmes that they could fund;

10. *Recognizes* in this regard that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has initiated and implemented rapid e-trade readiness assessments of least developed countries in cooperation with other donors and organizations in order to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges related to leveraging e-commerce in the least developed countries;

11. *Welcomes* the holding of the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on e-Commerce and the Digital Economy, its policy recommendations and its decision to recommend to the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development the establishment of a working group on measuring e-commerce and the digital economy;

12. *Also welcomes* the holding of e-Commerce Week from 16 to 20 April 2018, with the theme of "Development dimensions of digital platforms", and looks forward to the first Africa e-Commerce Week, to be held in Nairobi from 10 to 14 December 2018;

13. *Recognizes* that, despite recent progress and significant gains, there is still uneven growth in access to and use of information and communications technologies, expresses concern over the substantial continued digital and broadband divides between and within developed and developing countries, including the fact that there are 90 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people in developed countries, compared with 41 in developing countries and less than 20 in the least developed countries, and that the cost of access is higher in developing countries in relation to average household income, resulting in a lack of affordable access to information and communications technologies, and in this regard urges all relevant stakeholders to address the growing digital divides between and within countries by, among other actions, strengthening enabling policy environments at all levels and enhancing international cooperation to improve affordability, education, capacity-building, technology transfer on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and appropriate financing, with a continued focus on pro-poor policies on information and communications technology, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level;

14. *Encourages* research and development, and the development of viable strategies that could result in further competitiveness, investment and rapid reductions in the cost of information and communications technologies, and urges all relevant stakeholders to address the growing digital divides between and within countries by, among other actions, strengthening enabling policy environments at all levels and developing legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation, public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and international cooperation to improve affordability, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

15. *Recognizes* that a gender digital divide persists, and that the proportion of women using the Internet is 12 per cent lower than that of men worldwide and 31 per cent lower in the least developed countries, notes with concern that, while the gender digital divide has narrowed in most regions since 2013, it has widened in Africa, in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to information and communications technologies for development, including new technologies, in this respect reiterates its request for relevant United Nations entities, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to support the implementation and monitoring of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society by enhancing the emphasis on gender, and reaffirms the commitment to ensure women's full participation in decision-making processes related to information and communications technologies;

16. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;[7]

17. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;

18. *Acknowledges* the extension of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum through 2025, as set out in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;[6]

19. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,[4] including discussion of public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum,[9] in particular those on enhancing the participation of developing countries;

20. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of Governments and stakeholders from all developing countries, in particular the least developed

[9] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and A/67/65/Corr.1-E/2012/48/Corr.1.

countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

21. *Notes* the work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, established by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125, to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, and also notes that the Working Group ensured the full involvement of Governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, taking into account all their diverse views and expertise;

22. *Also notes* that the Working Group held five meetings between September 2016 and January 2018 at which it discussed inputs from Member States and other stakeholders, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125;

23. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Working Group,[10] which includes references to the full texts of all proposals and contributions, and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and all participants who submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

24. *Welcomes* the good progress made by the Working Group in many areas and the fact that consensus seemed to emerge on some issues, while significant divergence of views in a number of other issues persisted, and in that regard regrets that the Working Group could not find agreement on recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, and hence decides to increase the level of the Working Group;

25. *Recognizes* that a lack of access to affordable and reliable technologies and services remains a critical challenge in many developing countries, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries, countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural disasters, and that all efforts should be deployed to reduce the price of information and communications technologies and broadband access, bearing in mind that deliberate interventions, including through research and development and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, may be necessary to spur the development of lower-cost connectivity options;

26. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in engaging with and accessing new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, setting standards and technology flows, and in this regard urges all stakeholders to ensure adequate means of implementation, including strengthened capacity-building of developing countries, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries, countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural disasters;

27. *Further recognizes* the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome digital divides, and stresses that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the

[10] See E/CN.16/2018/CRP.3.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[11]

28. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technologies has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges of developing countries, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries, countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural disasters, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

29. *Recognizes* the importance of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to address the challenges and opportunities in relation to the use of the Internet and e-commerce to develop their international trade capacities, among other things;

30. *Also recognizes* the importance of the free flow of information and knowledge, as the amount of information distributed worldwide grows and the role of communication becomes all the more important, and acknowledges that the mainstreaming of information and communications technologies in school curricula, open access to data, the fostering of competition, the creation of transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulatory and legal systems, proportionate taxation and licensing fees, access to finance, the facilitation of public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder cooperation, national and regional broadband strategies, efficient allocation of the radio frequency spectrum, infrastructure-sharing models, community-based approaches and public access facilities have in many countries facilitated significant gains in connectivity and sustainable development;

31. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging digital divides, in their different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries and, in turn, building information and knowledge societies;

32. *Notes* the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes that official development assistance and other concessional financial flows for information and communications technologies can make significant contributions to development outcomes, in particular where they can reduce the risk of public and private investment, and increase the use of information and communications technologies to strengthen good governance and tax collection;

33. *Recognizes* the critical importance of private sector investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, content and services, encourages Governments to create legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation, and also recognizes the importance of public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and other approaches to that end;

34. *Welcomes* the holding of the third annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development, takes note of its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, looks forward to further advancement in the follow-up process, and welcomes the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on

[11] Resolution 69/313, annex.

Financing for Development, the progress made in operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the third annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

35. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the review process of the World Summit on the Information Society, the summary by the Co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals[12] and other relevant processes, as part of his annual report on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels;

37. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session an item entitled "Information and communications technologies for sustainable development".

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[12] E/HLPF/2017/4.

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Agenda item 23 (b)
Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Egypt:* draft resolution

Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,[1] at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,

Recalling its resolutions 71/239 of 21 December 2016 and 72/232 of 20 December 2017,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions —

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

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economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement,[2] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[4] while recognizing that landlocked developing countries face some specific disaster risk challenges, and reiterating the commitment to addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda,[5] adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,

Welcoming the holding of the 2018 Global Infrastructure Forum, in Bali, Indonesia, on 13 October 2018, on the theme "Unlocking inclusive, resilient and sustainable technology-driven infrastructure", and taking note of its outcome,

Recognizing that the scale of funding and financing needed to close the transport infrastructure gap in landlocked developing countries and bring the level of transport infrastructure up to global standards is daunting and, in this regard, that strong partnerships will be crucial to bridging that gap,

Recognizing also the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as provided for in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recognizing further that landlocked developing countries are vulnerable to climate change, which is exacerbating desertification and land degradation, and that they remain negatively affected by desertification, land degradation and drought,

Recalling its resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of its full implementation,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and the domestic

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[2] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[4] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[5] Resolution 71/256, annex.

resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affects their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[6] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[7] the first programme of action for the landlocked developing countries,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting collaboration between landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the basis of common interest, and noting that collaboration efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments,

Recognizing the need to promote both public and private investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies, taking into account special vulnerabilities and needs of landlocked developing countries,

Taking note of the Astana Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries on Trade and Transport, held in the context of the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action in Astana on 16 and 17 May 2018,

Acknowledging the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries and the importance of enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Reaffirming that achieving food security and improving nutrition, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, achieving inclusive and equitable quality education, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, as well as ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, are important for achieving sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Taking note of the declaration of the annual ministerial meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries held at United Nations Headquarters on 28 September 2018 on the theme "Revitalizing partnerships to enhance the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recognizing that the Vienna Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships for accompanying landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

Taking note of the Livingstone Call for Action for the Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, adopted at the high-level follow-up meeting to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Livingstone, Zambia, in June 2015,

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[6] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[7] Ibid., annex I.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;[8]

2. *Welcomes* the recognition of the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[9] and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[10] and affirms that their effective implementation, together with the implementation of the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,[11] can drive the social and economic progress of landlocked developing countries and assist in their transformation from landlocked to land-linked countries;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, and stresses that the concerns and specific challenges of landlocked developing countries should be given consideration, as appropriate, in the implementation, follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries continue to face specific challenges in their efforts towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and the pursuit of sustainable development, and in this regard underlines the importance of scaling up international support to complement the efforts of landlocked developing countries;

5. *Also recognizes* that efforts will need to be scaled up and sustained in order to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 in landlocked developing countries;

6. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to accelerate the implementation of the relevant actions that have been agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action in its six priority areas in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

7. *Reiterates its invitation* to development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

8. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation, and calls upon development partners, the United Nations system and the relevant international and regional organizations to provide technical support, within their respective mandates, to the landlocked developing countries in their efforts to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda in their national development strategies;

9. *Encourages* landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to mainstream the 2030 Agenda into their national development planning and foster coherence in its implementation with the Vienna Programme of Action;

10. *Stresses* that the harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements, stresses also that cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution of cross-

[8] A/73/297.

[9] Resolution 70/1.

[10] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[11] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

border trade and transit transport problems, and underlines that this cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked developing countries and transit countries;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting efficient transit transport systems, including roads, railroads and inland waterways, that link landlocked developing countries to international markets, reaffirms that the Vienna Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this regard highlights the need to establish secure, reliable, efficient, high-quality, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including transit transport systems, renewable energy and information and communications technology, with the support of development partners, multilateral financial and development institutions and regional banks;

12. *Notes* that, despite the continued growth of air passenger and freight transport, landlocked developing countries are still faced with low volumes of freight transported by air, and stresses that air transport is particularly important, as it provides landlocked developing countries with direct access to international markets;

13. *Invites* landlocked developing countries and transit countries to consider ratifying, as appropriate, relevant international trade and transport facilitation conventions;[12]

14. *Underlines* that infrastructure development plays a key role in reducing the cost of development for landlocked developing countries and that the development and maintenance of transit transport infrastructure, information and communications technology and energy infrastructure are crucial for landlocked developing countries in order to reduce high trading costs, improve their competitiveness and become fully integrated into the global market;

15. *Stresses* that the magnitude of the resources required to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge and requires the forging of international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, the allocation of more resources from national budgets, the effective deployment of international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and strengthening of the role of the private sector, and recognizes that both public and private investment have key roles to play in infrastructure financing, including through development banks, development finance institutions and tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, which combines concessional public finance, non-concessional private finance and expertise from the public and private sector, special purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments and pooled funding structures;

16. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries, in a coordinated manner, to develop and upgrade international transport and transit corridors encompassing all modes of transportation, such as inland waterways, roads, rail networks, ports and pipelines, to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries;

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[12] Including the Customs Convention on Containers (Geneva, 2 December 1972), the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (Geneva, 18 May 1956), the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (Geneva, 14 November 1975), the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 21 October 1982) and the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (2013).

17. *Underlines* the significance of international transport corridors for reducing trade costs and promoting regional sustainable development, recognizes the need for strengthening the role of economic corridors, corridor management organizations and subregional and interregional arrangements, and invites the relevant United Nations and other international organizations, including the World Bank, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional economic commissions and others to provide the necessary support in this regard;

18. *Acknowledges* that impediments to private investment in infrastructure exist on both the supply and the demand side and that insufficient investment is due in part to inadequate infrastructure plans and an insufficient number of well-prepared investable projects, along with private sector incentive structures that are not necessarily appropriate for investing in many long-term projects and risk perceptions of investors, encourages landlocked developing countries to embed resilient and quality infrastructure investment plans into their national sustainable development strategies, while also strengthening their domestic enabling environments, and calls upon the international community to provide technical support to landlocked developing countries to translate plans into concrete project pipelines, as well as support for individual implementable projects, including for feasibility studies, the negotiation of complex contracts and project management;

19 *Encourages* multilateral development banks, including regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to address gaps in trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure, including by completing missing links connecting, inter alia, landlocked developing countries within regional networks;

20. *Invites* the multilateral financial and development institutions to consider how they can best support landlocked developing countries with infrastructure development, including through project financing, planning for operations and maintenance, technical and regulatory advice, and project preparation;

21. *Stresses* the importance of universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services, and also stresses the need for accelerating sustainable energy for all in landlocked developing countries, including through innovative partnerships;

22. *Underlines* that greater integration of landlocked developing countries into world trade and global as well as regional value chains is vital for increasing their competitiveness and diversification and ensuring their economic development, and calls upon the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Common Fund for Commodities, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Trade Centre, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the regional economic commissions and development partners to provide assistance to landlocked developing countries to strengthen their capacity to participate in regional and global value chains;

23. *Recognizes* that services sectors are important enablers of trade in goods and effective participation in international trade and global value chains, that efficient services sectors enhance productivity, reduce the cost of doing business and promote job creation and that landlocked developing countries should be supported so as to increase the share of services in their economies and exports, including through enabling policies;

24. *Stresses* that improved trade facilitation, including through further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved in border clearance, would help landlocked developing countries to enhance the competitiveness of their export products and services;

25. *Recognizes* the importance of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation in addressing high trade and transit costs, and in this regard calls for its full and timely implementation by all members of the World Trade Organization, calls upon those members that have not yet done so to deposit their instrument of acceptance, where appropriate, as soon as possible, and in this regard urges members and relevant international and regional organizations to continue to provide and enhance technical and capacity-building assistance, particularly for the effective implementation of the provisions of articles on the release and clearance of goods, border agency cooperation, formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit, freedom of transit and customs cooperation, which are very relevant for landlocked developing countries;

26. *Recognizes* that the growth in e-commerce provides international trade opportunities, including new market opportunities, calls for support from development partners to strengthen e-commerce readiness in the landlocked developing countries, and calls upon the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Telecommunication Union and partners to undertake studies on how to promote e-commerce in the landlocked developing countries;

27. *Stresses* the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries in a broader range of areas than just trade and trade facilitation, including investment, research and development and policies aimed at accelerating regional industrial development and regional connectivity, that this approach is aimed at fostering structural change and economic growth in landlocked developing countries as a goal, and also as a means of collectively linking regions to global markets, that this would enhance competitiveness and help to maximize benefits from globalization and that documentation and the sharing and dissemination of best practices are important to allow cooperating partners to benefit from each other's experience;

28. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, stresses the need for renewed and strengthened partnerships for development to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports by entering and moving up global value chains through the development of their productive capacities, including through private sector involvement, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets, and welcomes the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

29. *Underlines* that, in order for landlocked developing countries to fully utilize their export and trade potential, it is important to undertake measures, consistent with relevant international rules and obligations, that promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of their geographical disadvantages and external shocks, creating jobs and ultimately leading to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and inclusive and sustainable growth and development, stresses that each landlocked developing country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and

that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and in this regard stresses that the national development efforts of landlocked developing countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment;

30. *Emphasizes* that infrastructure, industry and innovation are strongly connected, share the common goal of achieving inclusive and sustainable economic development and contribute to poverty eradication, and recognizes that inclusive and sustainable industrialization is integral to the structural transformation of the economies of all countries, including the landlocked developing countries;

31. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external economic shocks and to the multiple other challenges faced by the international community;

32. *Also recognizes* the high vulnerability of landlocked developing countries to the negative impacts of climate change, especially drought, desertification, land degradation and the melting of glaciers, which is of serious concern, and that increased resources and support are needed to implement national adaptation plans;

33. *Welcomes* the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, recognizes that insufficient financing continues to prevent the landlocked developing countries from meeting national water and sanitation needs, and emphasizes, therefore, the need to address challenges of water scarcity;

34. *Underlines* that South-South and triangular cooperation are vital to the landlocked developing countries, especially in the areas of productive capacity-building, infrastructure, energy, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation, and in this regard highlights the importance of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in addressing the needs of the landlocked developing countries;

35. *Welcomes* the inauguration of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries as the first-ever intergovernmental entity of the landlocked developing countries, also welcomes the progress made by the International Think Tank in conducting research on issues of importance to the landlocked developing countries, encourages the International Think Tank to continue its efforts to undertake quality research and provide policy advice on strengthening the analytical capacities of the landlocked developing countries in the key areas of economic growth and poverty reduction, invites the International Think Tank to undertake its role of supporting the development efforts of the landlocked developing countries, urges those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, and invites Member States, as well as international organizations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to the International Think Tank;

36. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries and their transit country neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, reaffirms that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underlined by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action, and also recognizes that international public finance plays an important role in complementing those efforts, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources;

37. *Underlines* the critical role of the private sector, including through foreign direct investment, in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

38. *Also underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how, on mutually agreed terms, and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries in this regard, and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

39. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, with providers of official development assistance reaffirming their respective commitments, and invites development partners to increase official development assistance for the development of transport and energy infrastructure;

40. *Recognizes* the essential role of the private sector in the development of landlocked developing countries, and in this regard underlines the need to continue promoting the participation of the private sector in achieving sustainable development and the critical importance of mobilizing private resources for the development of landlocked developing countries, taking into account the leading role of States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action;

41. *Invites* developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

42. *Invites* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative in assisting landlocked developing countries to address their special needs and requirements, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and the implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products;

43. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

44. *Underlines* the importance of increasing the availability and use of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, stresses the need to enhance capacity-building support for developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, for this purpose, and reaffirms the commitment to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data;

45. *Recognizes* that it is important for all countries, including landlocked developing countries, to commit to a world in which all women and girls enjoy full gender equality with men and boys and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment and equality have been removed;

46. *Reaffirms* its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations development system, in which it urged the United Nations development system to enhance its support for, inter alia, the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and calls upon the entities of the United Nations development system to integrate and mainstream it fully into their operational activities for development;

47. *Also reaffirms* its resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, in which it agreed on reforms to improve the United Nations system's collective support to countries as they implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regard to landlocked developing countries, which are among the nations that most need the assistance of the United Nations system;

48. *Urges* that coherent and effective linkages be made between the implementation, follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Vienna Programme of Action;

49. *Underlines* the importance of the successful implementation of, follow-up to and review of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

50. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels;

51. *Reaffirms* its decision in its resolution 72/232 to convene, as called for in paragraph 78 of the Vienna Programme of Action, a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Decade 2014–2024, to be held no later than December 2019, and decides to hold three days of high-level plenary meetings devoted to the midterm review no later than December 2019, to be chaired by the President of General Assembly;

52. *Decides* to invite the President of the General Assembly to chair the high-level midterm review, and requests the President of the Assembly to convene informal consultations, as required and in the most efficient and effective manner, to facilitate the preparation of an outcome document for the midterm review;

53. *Encourages* all Member States, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, as well as the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, to participate actively in the midterm review at a high level;

54. *Stresses* the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in the comprehensive high-level midterm review and its preparatory process, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

55. Decides that the comprehensive high-level midterm review and its preparatory process shall be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies and observers in the General Assembly, and that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established

for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply;

56. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the landlocked developing countries in the high-level midterm review process, and in this regard invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders and donors to contribute to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for the purpose of assisting landlocked developing countries in participating fully and effectively in the high-level midterm review and the preparatory process;

57. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the comprehensive high-level midterm review and to the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and in this context calls upon the landlocked developing countries to undertake their national reviews on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, with a particular focus on progress, obstacles, constraints, actions and measures necessary to further its implementation, in close collaboration with the Office of the High Representative and the United Nations country teams, as part of their existing workplans;

58. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to support the implementation of, follow-up to and monitoring of the Vienna Programme of Action, including the preparations for and organization of the high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a progress report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for its high-level midterm review, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries".

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Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Egypt:* draft resolution

Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2] adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action, and recalling also the Political Declaration adopted at the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[3] held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] Resolution 70/294, annex.

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that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming the Paris Agreement,[4] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming also the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[6]

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and its guiding principles,[7] and recalling also its promotion of regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises, at the national and local levels, with a view to ensuring a rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs,

Recalling also its resolution 72/231 of 20 December 2017 on the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/26 of 24 July 2018 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling its resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of its full and timely implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade

[4] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[7] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

2011–2020[8] and on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures and graduation support;[9]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further strengthen the global partnership for development for the least developed countries in all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the decade, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[11] which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, the Paris Agreement[4] adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[7] and the New Urban Agenda;[6]

3. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence, in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

4. *Recalls* the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at all levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

5. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

6. *Recognizes* that significant additional domestic public resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance, as appropriate, will be critical for the realization of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resource mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership, and also recognizes that, while the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources and attract private investment, further progress is needed;

7. *Expresses* its concern that bilateral official development assistance to the least developed countries remains far from the target set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, while noting the reversal of the decline of official development assistance to the least developed countries in 2017, and expressing its appreciation to those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitments to 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent

[8] A/73/80-E/2018/58.
[9] A/73/291.
[10] Resolution 70/1.
[11] Resolution 69/313, annex.

of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, urges all others to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards the official development assistance targets, reiterates that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, calls upon official development assistance providers to fulfil their respective official development assistance commitments to the least developed countries, and encourages official development assistance providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.2 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, while reiterating that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private;

8. *Encouraged* by those who are allocating at least 50 per cent of their official development assistance to the least developed countries;

9. *Welcomes* continued efforts to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles;

10. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to but not a substitute for North-South cooperation;

11. *Expresses its concern* that merchandise exports of the least developed countries have continued to decline for several years, resulting in a considerable decline in their share of goods and services exports, which stood at 0.89 per cent in 2017, and thus further movement away from the target of 2 per cent of global exports called for in the Istanbul Programme of Action and target 17.11 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and calls upon the least developed countries and their development partners to take the measures necessary to reverse this trend, with a view to achieving the target of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda;

12. *Urges* the least developed countries and their development partners to make use of existing initiatives and programmes, such as the relevant ministerial decisions of the World Trade Organization on duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries and on preferential rules of origin for those countries, as well as aid for trade, reiterates its commitment to increase aid-for-trade support, in particular for the least developed countries, strives to allocate an increasing proportion of aid for trade to the least developed countries, in accordance with development cooperation effectiveness principles, welcomes additional cooperation among developing countries to this end, and encourages the least developed countries to mainstream trade in their national development plans;

13. *Recognizes* that the least developed countries face significant infrastructure gaps, including in the areas of transport, energy, and information and communications technology, and reaffirms the need to promote quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and to enhance infrastructure connectivity with concrete actions, maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development;

14. *Emphasizes* that the acute energy gap faced by the least developed countries is a severe constraint on their structural transformation, stresses that special attention should be given to the least developed countries, including throughout the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024), with a view to ensuring the realization of the objective of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable

and modern energy for all by 2030 and to addressing the infrastructure needs of the least developed countries;

15. *Recognizes* the significant potential of regional economic integration and interconnectivity to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development in the least developed countries, and stresses the need to strengthen regional cooperation and regional trade agreements to improve connectivity and competitiveness, increase productivity, lower transaction costs and expand markets;

16. *Expresses its deep concern* that a number of least developed countries are in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress[12] and that the ratio of debt service to exports has worsened sharply, rising from 4.1 per cent in 2008 to almost 10 per cent in 2017, underlines the urgent need to address the debt problems of the least developed countries, and stresses the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate, for the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by the least developed countries to creditors, both public and private, reiterates its commitment to work through existing initiatives, such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and reaffirms the importance of transparency in debt management;

17. *Recognizes* that maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries, while acknowledging that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in such a way that it does not undermine a country's debt sustainability, recalls the need to strengthen information-sharing and transparency to make sure that debt sustainability assessments are based on comprehensive, objective and reliable data, encourages Member States to work towards global consensus on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives, and underlines that the debt sustainability framework for least developed countries should systematically take into account their structural constraints and longer-term investment requirements for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

18. *Expresses its concern* that foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries contracted by 17 per cent in 2017 compared with 2016, with continued concentration on extractive and related industries, and underlines the need to take the measures necessary at all levels to further accelerate foreign direct investment in the least developed countries;

19. *Encourages* the least developed countries, in accordance with their national plans and priorities, and with the full support of their development partners, to develop their capacities to track financial transactions, administer taxation and regulate customs and to redouble their efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation, and also encourages the United Nations and other relevant international bodies to help to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

20. *Recalls* target 17.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in which the General Assembly decided to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries, and underlines the need for its early implementation, invites the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to retain the issue of investment

[12] See International Monetary Fund, Debt Sustainability Analysis: Low-Income Countries.

promotion regimes for the least developed countries in the agenda of the Board, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system to increase the flow of foreign direct investment to the least developed countries and the ability of those countries to attract such investment, and in that context takes note of the initiative of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Enhanced Integrated Framework and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies to set up a capacity-development programme for the investment promotion agencies of least developed countries, and calls for financial support to operationalize this programme;

21. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and the inauguration of its headquarters in Gebze, Turkey, which signify the achievement of the first Sustainable Development Goal target, target 17.8, takes note with appreciation of the contributions that Bangladesh, India, Norway and Turkey, have made, as well as the pledges made by the Philippines and the Sudan, and invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial contributions and technical assistance to the Technology Bank to ensure its effective operation;

22. *Expresses its deep concern* that, owing to significant capacity constraints, the least developed countries are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, salinity intrusion, glacial lake outburst floods, ocean acidification and the rise in frequency, as well as the impact, of natural and man-made disasters, which further threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and expresses its concern that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues;

23. *Recognizes* the synergies between the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, acknowledges the importance of continued support for and international cooperation on adaptation and mitigation efforts and on strengthening resilience, stresses the necessity of adequate and predictable financial resources from a variety of sources, including public and private ones, highlights the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, recognizes that effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development, and in this regard underlines the importance of strengthening disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the consequences of disasters;

24. *Recalls* the objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action of: enhancing good governance at all levels by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law; increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation; protecting and promoting human rights; and reducing corruption and strengthening the capacity of the Governments of the least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

25. *Recognizes* the importance of developing domestic capital markets in the least developed countries, which can help channel the growing pool of domestic savings towards productive investments, reaffirms the commitment to enhance international support in developing domestic capital markets in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries, and reaffirms its commitment to work

to strengthen capacity-building in this area, including through regional, interregional and global forums for knowledge-sharing, technical assistance and data-sharing;

26. *Reaffirms* that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and the full realization of the human rights of all people are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies in the least developed countries;

27. *Underlines* the need to reduce the vulnerability of the least developed countries to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and to enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges by strengthening their resilience, and in this regard stresses that it is important that all countries and other actors work together to further develop and implement concrete measures, on an urgent basis, at the national and international levels so as to build the resilience of the least developed countries to withstand economic shocks and mitigate their adverse effects, to withstand and overcome the adverse effects of climate change, to enhance sustainable growth and protect biodiversity and to withstand natural hazards in order to reduce the risk of disasters, as agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

28. *Also underlines* the importance of improving the coordination and effectiveness of resilience-building initiatives for the least developed countries by leveraging existing measures at the national, regional and global levels to respond to various types of disasters and shocks, as elaborated in the report of the Secretary-General;

29. *Congratulates* those countries that have met the criteria for graduation from least developed country status, notes with appreciation that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites those countries to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend enhanced necessary support in this regard, in a coordinated manner;

30. *Acknowledges* that the graduation of a country symbolizes its considerable long-term socioeconomic progress, prevailing over the structural handicaps to socioeconomic development, and that it also presents many challenges for graduated countries, which continue to face vulnerabilities to various shocks and crises;

31. *Invites* development partners to continue to provide dedicated support measures for graduated countries, including capacity-building and technical assistance, to enhance access to new sources of financing, including blended financing of domestic and international resources, in order to address post-graduation challenges and to support progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals;

32. *Invites* the least developed countries and development partners to integrate graduation and smooth transition strategies into their respective national development and aid strategies, as appropriate;

33. *Notes* with appreciation that some development partners have extended some of the benefits specific to the least developed countries to countries that have graduated, taking into account the challenges they continue to face, and invites all development partners to strengthen their support for graduation and smooth transition so that graduating and recently graduated countries will not face any disruption in their development trajectory;

34. *Decides* to request the Committee for Development Policy, as part of its comprehensive review of the criteria for the identification of the least developed countries, to review the procedures and time frame for graduation, taking into account the need of some graduating countries to align their transition strategies with their national development plans, following the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 59/209 to take note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy to graduate a country from the list of the least developed countries;

35. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure the effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support to realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

36. *Takes note* of the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for the least developed countries, led by the Office of the High Representative, notes the steps taken by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-level Committee on Programmes in supporting the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include the implementation of the Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board and to make substantive contributions to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and its preparatory processes;

37. *Recalls* paragraph 157 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 on holding a Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in order to make a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent action, and decides to convene the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in 2021 for a duration of five working days, with the following mandate:

(a) To undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them;

(b) To identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities and the means to address them;

(c) To reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework;

(d) To mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries and, in this regard, to formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners;

38. *Decides* to convene two meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee, one towards the end of 2020 and one early in 2021;

39. *Also decides* to take a decision on the organizational aspects, date and venue of the Conference and on the venue, duration and dates of the preparatory committee meetings at its seventy-fourth session;

40. *Further decides* that the meeting of the preparatory committee will be preceded by two regional preparatory meetings, one in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the other in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in the context of the regular annual session of each Commission, with those regional meetings to be supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations;

41. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and in the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and calls upon the Governments of the least developed countries to submit their reports in a timely manner;

42. *Stresses* that the Conference and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the years 2020 and 2021;

43. *Decides* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will be the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, in accordance with mandates given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, to ensure that those preparations are carried out effectively and to mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the entire United Nations system and other international organizations;

44. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, the funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, to provide necessary support and to contribute actively to the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of resident coordinators and country teams in the preparations for the Conference, in particular in the country-level and regional preparations;

46. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums and the preparatory process of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and the Istanbul Programme of Action, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries";

48. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a progress report on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures covering both graduating and recently graduated countries, including new and dedicated support measures to graduated countries in moving forward on their development path and initiatives taken by the United Nations system to support countries during their graduation from the least developed country category.

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Towards global partnerships

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000, 56/76 of 11 December 2001, 58/129 of 19 December 2003, 60/215 of 22 December 2005, 62/211 of 19 December 2007, 64/223 of 21 December 2009, 66/223 of 22 December 2011, 68/234 of 20 December 2013 and 70/224 of 22 December 2015, as well as its decision 72/543 of 20 December 2017,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

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Reaffirming further its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the general guidelines and principles contained therein, as well as its resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018, and welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by putting in place a reinvigorated resident coordinator system that gives resident coordinators a central role in leading United Nations coordination activities with regard to innovative partnerships and investments relating to the Sustainable Development Goals at the country level,

Reaffirming the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law, emphasizing the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status, and reiterating that the Sustainable Development Goals seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

Underlining the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for achieving sustainable development and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and reaffirming that good governance, rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, equal access to fair justice systems and measures to combat corruption and curb illicit financial flows will be integral to those efforts,

Reiterating its determination to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence, and reaffirming that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development,

Recalling the objectives underpinning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and as an integral part thereof, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in particular with regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty,

Welcoming, therefore, the contribution of all relevant partners, including the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and academia, that respect and support the core values and principles of the United Nations, to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals,

Emphasizing that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, delivers vital contributions to addressing the obstacles confronted in particular by developing countries through responsible business practices, such as respecting the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and taking action, including by mobilizing the resources needed to finance sustainable development, and to realizing the internationally agreed development goals in developing countries,

Recognizing the unique position of the United Nations as a builder of bridges among countries and all stakeholders, and the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, and noting the establishment of partnerships at the field level entered into by various

United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, and all partnerships using the United Nations name or emblem shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains and promotes the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings, and, in general, towards implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policies premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Emphasizing that multi-stakeholder partnerships in particular and the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of all relevant stakeholders will be important in mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complementing the efforts of Governments and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries,

Recalling the Guidelines on a Principle-based Approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector and their alignment with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,[1]

Recalling also that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges the roles and contributions of civil society, including the scientific and technological community and non-governmental organizations, as well as other relevant international organizations, including international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, in advancing sustainable development, and that the implementation of sustainable development will depend on the active engagement of those actors, and recognizing that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development,

Recognizing the contributions of all relevant partners, including the private sector, in fostering stability and supporting recovery by creating job opportunities, advancing economic development, as well as infrastructure development, and, as appropriate, contributing to trust, reconciliation and security,

Noting the need for values and principles in business, including for sustainable business practices, social protection floors and the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Reaffirming the principles of sustainable development, and underlining the global consensus reached on the key values and principles that will promote sustainable, fair, equitable and sustained economic development and that corporate social and environmental responsibility are important elements of that consensus,

Recognizing the continued efforts by the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council and other relevant forums, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, to strengthen inclusive partnerships with the private sector and other stakeholders to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation in adherence to agreed

[1] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

development effectiveness principles, which promote country ownership, results orientation and the alignment of activities with national priorities,

Encouraging the private sector in the context of enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all its relevant partners to enhance its involvement in combating climate change, and welcoming the commitments to leadership on climate action already made by those private sector partners,

Recalling that the high-level political forum on sustainable development has a central role in overseeing follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, including with regard to partnerships and the impact of partnerships on progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Stressing the importance of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in supporting the participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders pursuant to resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, and calling upon those actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the vital role that the United Nations Global Compact Office continues to play with regard to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to partner strategically with the private sector, in accordance with its mandate from the General Assembly, to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community, and in this regard welcoming the principles and initiatives of the United Nations Global Compact,

1. *Acknowledges* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[2] can only be realized with a strong commitment to partnership at all levels between Governments, the private sector, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders, and therefore recognizes the importance of the various contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to that end;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector;[3]

3. *Stresses* that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

4. *Also stresses* that new alliances and partnerships will be critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as an effective instrument for mobilizing additional human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge, while reiterating that those alliances and partnerships are a complement to, but are not intended as a substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving the Goals;

5. *Further stresses* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where they are implemented, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

6. *Emphasizes* the vital role played by Governments in promoting responsible business practices, including providing and ensuring enforcement of the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks in accordance with national legislation and development

[2] Resolution 70/1.

[3] A/73/326.

priorities, and invites them to continue to provide support to United Nations efforts to engage with the private sector and other relevant partners, as appropriate;

7. *Recalls* the recommendation in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework[1] that Member States apply a smart mix of measures, including national and international incentives and regulations, in order to foster responsible business conduct and ensure the inclusion of all relevant partners;

8. *Recognizes* the vital role that the private sector plays in sustainable development, including by engaging in various partnership models, by generating decent employment and investment, by giving access to and developing new technologies, by offering technical vocational training activities and by stimulating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth;

9. *Welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to steer the United Nations system towards giving greater attention to longer-term, strategic and innovation-based multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to leverage private sector competencies and technologies with a view to generating greater potential for innovation and increased impact on sustainable development, which is needed for the timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

10. *Stresses* that greater effort is required to unlock new financial flows, including from mainstream institutional investors, for the timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard recognizes the need for the United Nations system to increase its efforts to facilitate financial innovations that leverage public and private investment towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

11. *Welcomes* the growing number of businesses that embrace a core business model that takes account of the environmental, social and governance impacts of their activities, including, but not limited to, giving due consideration to non-discrimination, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and encourages and urges all businesses to adopt principles for responsible business and investing, in particular the principles of the United Nations Global Compact;

12. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to further improve the collaboration of the United Nations with all relevant partners, including the private sector, to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations system, including by mainstreaming understanding of the role of partnerships throughout the system, and to discuss the further strengthening of cooperation and coordination across the United Nations system with regard to partnerships with a view to enhancing the results achieved through them, while acknowledging the importance of continued consultations with Member States;

13. *Further welcomes* the commitment of the Secretary-General to continuing to retain the integrity and unique role of the United Nations Global Compact, and underlines the importance of integrity measures consistent with international law and in accordance with the 10 principles of the United Nations Global Compact;

14. *Invites* the United Nations system, when considering partnerships, to seek to engage in a more coherent manner with private sector entities, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, that support the core values of the United Nations, as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant conventions and treaties, and that commit to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact by translating them into operational corporate policies, codes of conduct, and management, monitoring and reporting systems;

15. *Stresses* the need for the United Nations system to continue its efforts to develop, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and coherent approach across the United Nations system that places greater emphasis on transparency, impact, accountability, human rights, due diligence and risk management, while taking into account the specific mandates of United Nations agencies, programmes and other entities and without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements;

16. *Acknowledges* the importance of corporate sustainability reporting, encourages companies, especially publicly listed and large companies, to integrate sustainability and human rights due diligence information into their reporting cycles, encourages industry, interested Governments and relevant stakeholders, with the support of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to enhance existing models and develop new models for best practice and to facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account experiences from already existing frameworks and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity-building, and welcomes in this context the collaboration of the United Nations Global Compact with the Global Reporting Initiative and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote effective implementation of the Guidelines on a Principle-based Approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector;

18. *Encourages* the international community to strengthen global partnerships for the integration and implementation of partnerships underpinned by normative frameworks, including the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization and the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

19. *Invites* the academic, research and scientific communities to contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to support and participate in multi-stakeholder partnerships to this end;

20. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities through partnerships, and encourages Governments to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses;

21. *Recognizes* the work and the important role of the Global Compact Local Networks in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the importance of cooperation between the United Nations system at the local level, including the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, and the Global Compact Local Networks, to support, as appropriate and in a manner complementary to existing networks, the coordination and application of global partnerships locally;

22. *Also recognizes* that the Global Compact Local Networks provide an avenue for diffusing United Nations values and principles and facilitating partnerships with business on a broad scale, and in this regard encourages the Networks to also create awareness of the many ways in which business can contribute to advancing gender equality;

23. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations private sector focal points network, promoting greater coherence and capacity-building within the Organization on activities involving business and disseminating innovations in engagement across the system, as well as the holding of annual meetings of United Nations system private sector focal points, which remain important forums for the exchange of best practices, lessons learned and innovations in partnerships with the private sector;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled "Towards global partnerships".

United Nations A/C.2/73/L.33

General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (f)
Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Egypt:* draft resolution

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009, 65/161 of 20 December 2010, 66/202 of 22 December 2011, 67/212 of 21 December 2012, 68/214 of 20 December 2013, 69/222 of 19 December 2014, 70/207 of 22 December 2015, 71/230 of 21 December 2016 and 72/221 of 20 December 2017 and its previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals convened by the President of the General Assembly,[6]

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[7] and, inter alia, the commitments concerning biodiversity contained therein,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 68/6.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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Reaffirming also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[8] and its principles,

Reaffirming further its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming also the Paris Agreement,[9] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[10] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling that the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being,

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication, food security and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that, in its resolution 65/161, the General Assembly declared 2011–2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,[11]

Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with the Convention, make a key contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Taking note of the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting entitled "Article 8 (j) and related provisions",[12] decision CBD/CP/MOP/VIII/19[13] and decision CBD/NP/MOP/DEC/2/7,[14]

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[15] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,[16]

Recognizing the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and reaffirming the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,

Welcoming the 2015–2020 Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity,[17] which intends to integrate a gender perspective and promote gender equality within the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

Recognizing the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora[18] in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and in ensuring that no species entering into international trade is threatened with extinction,[19] and noting the contribution of parties to and the secretariat[20] of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation,

Recalling its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the high-level

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[11] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2, annex.

[12] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25, decision XIII/18.

[13] Adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its eighth meeting (see United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/CP/MOP/8/17).

[14] Adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization at its second meeting (see United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/NP/MOP/2/13).

[15] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[16] Resolution 69/2.

[17] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29, sect. I, decision XII/7, annex.

[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

[19] See resolution Conf. 16.7 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

[20] See resolution Conf. 16.3 (Rev. CoP17), entitled "CITES Strategic Vision: 2008–2020".

United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, in this regard reaffirming the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recalling also the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,[21] and recognizing that forests are home to an estimated 80 per cent of all terrestrial species and that all types of forests contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to the conservation of biodiversity,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[22] and acknowledging the role of access to genetic resources and equitable benefit-sharing arising from their utilization in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, thereby, to the achievement of sustainable development,

Noting also that 91 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 106 States and 1 regional economic integration organization that are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya Protocol, and noting also in this regard that the Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014,

Noting further the Nagoya Protocol, the objective of which is the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components,

Noting that 195 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and that 170 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[23]

Noting also that, with the deposit of the fortieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[24] entered into force on 5 March 2018,

Recalling the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention,[25] as well as decision X/3, adopted by the

[21] Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/4, annex I.

[22] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1.

[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

[24] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/17, annex, decision BS-V/11.

[25] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I, decision IX/11.

Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting,[26] on the review of its implementation, and the targets for resource mobilization, under Aichi Target 20 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision XII/3,[27]

Noting the need for mobilizing additional resources, including the transfer of technology and capacity-building, to accomplish the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Targets,

Noting also the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[28] the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol[29] and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol,[30] all held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2016,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;[31]

2. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which met in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, from 17 to 29 November 2018, as well as the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, all under the proposed theme "Investing in biodiversity for people and planet", and recognizes that the outcomes of the meetings will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Sharm el-Sheik Declaration, adopted at the high-level segment of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

4. *Looks forward* to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, which will be held in China in the fourth quarter of 2020;

5. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[24] on 5 March 2018;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising

[26] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex.
[27] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29, sect. I.
[28] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25, sect. I.
[29] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/CP/MOP/8/17, sect. I.
[30] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/NP/MOP/2/13, sect. I.
[31] A/72/152, sect. III, and A/72/152/Corr.1.

from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity[22] on 12 October 2014;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being, adopted at the high-level segment of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;[32]

8. *Welcomes* the commitment of parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to take specific actions, tailored to national needs and circumstances, and in line with other relevant international agreements, in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, bearing in mind the impact of these sectors on biodiversity, in various direct and indirect ways;

9. *Encourages* the respective parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] and the Protocols thereto, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[22] and the Nagoya Protocol, requests the parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to coherently and efficiently implement the obligations and commitments under the Convention and the Protocols, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that may impede their implementation;

10. *Recognizes* that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable;

11. *Urges* the parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 16 and other relevant provisions of the Convention, in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, as well as of decision XI/2, entitled "Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to parties",[33] and also takes note of the relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting in this regard;[26]

12. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the secretariat of the Convention, parties to the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in conjunction with United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, as well as other entities, in organizing capacity-building workshops to support countries in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with a view to enhancing capacity and addressing the need for human, technical and financial resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020[11] and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,[11] adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting, in particular for developing countries;

13. *Notes with concern* that the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biologic[illegible]iversity at its thirteenth meeting showed that Aichi Biodiversity Targets 17 a[illegible]10 had not been achieved by the 2015 target date and that Targets 18 and 14 had made limited progress at the national level and in mainstreaming article 8 (j) of the Convention and related provisions into various areas

[32] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/24.

[33] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/35, annex I.

of work under the Convention, including capacity development and the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention;

14. *Urges* parties to promote the mainstreaming of gender considerations, taking into account the 2015–2020 Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity,[17] in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans and equivalent instruments in implementing the three objectives of the Convention, and recognizes the need to enhance cooperation on capacity-building in order support parties in this process;

15. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

16. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing to pursue more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and calls upon parties and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention;

17. *Recognizes* the limited progress in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by the parties to the Convention, and, given the limited time remaining, calls upon all parties to accelerate and scale up efforts to implement them, acknowledging the contribution of such efforts to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[34] and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

18. *Highlights* the importance of parties raising high-level political engagement for the achievement by 2020 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

19. *Reiterates* the call made in the declaration "Our ocean, our future: call for action"[35] for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

20. *Invites* all parties, relevant departments of the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the regional commissions to continue contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;

21. *Reaffirms* the need for a comprehensive and participatory process towards developing proposals for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, fully in line with decision XIII/1[36] and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

22. *Recognizes* that parties to the Convention have reiterated that resources, financial, human and technical, need to be provided and mobilized from all sources, and that this should be balanced with the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, stresses the need for further consideration of the evaluation of all resources mobilized in terms of the biodiversity outcomes achieved and detailing the source and type of resources in order to avoid double accounting, in this regard welcomes the decision of the parties to the Convention on an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the

[34] Resolution 70/1.

[35] Resolution 71/312.

[36] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25.

Strategic Plan from a variety of sources, including national and international resource mobilization and international cooperation and the exploration of new and innovative financial mechanisms, as appropriate, and takes note of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its thirteenth session, including the request to the Executive Secretary to prepare a stocktake and updated analysis of financial reports received in order to provide a more comprehensive picture of the global overall progress towards the global targets;

23. *Invites* countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

24. *Invites* parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol, and invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to continue to support capacity-building and development activities to support the ratification and implementation of the Protocol;

25. *Also invites* parties to the Convention to consider, as appropriate, ratifying or acceding to the Cartagena Protocol;

26. *Invites* parties to the Cartagena Protocol to consider, as appropriate, ratifying or acceding to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

27. *Takes note* of the work done by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions, and in this regard invites the secretariat of the Convention, through the Secretary-General, to report on the progress made when reporting on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly;

28. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as part of national implementation plans for the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular all biodiversity-related Goals and targets;

29. *Takes note* of the outcome of the sixth plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, held in Medellin, Colombia, from 17 to 24 March 2018, which aimed to provide policy-relevant information on biodiversity and ecosystem services to assist decision makers, including through its regional and subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and its thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration;

30. *Stresses* the importance of the engagement of the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in the achievement of the biodiversity targets, invites them to align their practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities, in this regard stresses the importance of the ongoing work of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and notes other related and complementary initiatives;

31. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[37] and the

[37] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[19] (the Rio conventions) and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of those conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, in this regard notes the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as reflected in its resolution 2/17 of 27 May 2016,[18] and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments;

32. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind, and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-fourth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and difficulties encountered in the process of their implementation, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session.

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[18] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/71/25), annex.

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Second Committee

Agenda item 20 (a)

Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Egypt:* draft resolution

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/270 A of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 64/236 of 24 December 2009, 65/152 of 20 December 2010, 66/197 of 22 December 2011, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, 67/203 of 21 December 2012, 68/210 of 20 December 2013, 68/309 of 10 September 2014, 68/310 of 15 September 2014, 69/108 of 8 December 2014, 69/214 of 19 December 2014, 70/201 of 22 December 2015, 71/223 of 21 December 2016, 72/216 of 20 December 2017 and all other relevant resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

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Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development [4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) [5] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, [7] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, [8] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, [9] the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, [10] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [11] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, [12]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration [13] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, [14] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 of

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[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] Resolution S-21/2, annex.

[11] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[12] Resolution 68/6.

[13] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[14] Ibid., chap. II.

17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[15] held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Declaration,

Recalling further the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024[16] and the Vienna Declaration,[17]

Recalling the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[18]

Reaffirming the importance of supporting the implementation of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[19]

Reaffirming also the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[20] adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Reaffirming further the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[21]

Reaffirming the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[22] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[23] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Emphasizing the importance of oceans for sustainable development, as embodied in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and various decisions taken by the former Commission on Sustainable Development, reaffirming in this regard the outcome of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,[24] taking note of its seven partnership dialogues, and calling upon all stakeholders to urgently undertake, inter alia, the actions highlighted in the call for action adopted at the Conference and implement the respective voluntary commitments pledged by individual Member States and other stakeholders during the Conference,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized,

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[15] Resolution 70/294, annex.
[16] Resolution 69/137, annex II.
[17] Ibid., annex I.
[18] Resolution 69/15, annex.
[19] A/57/304, annex.
[20] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.
[21] Resolution 71/256, annex.
[22] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[24] Resolution 71/312, annex.

concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of United Nations conferences, the United Nations Millennium Declaration[25] and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Noting with concern, at the threshold of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, that in 2013, 783-million people lived on less than $1.90 a day, compared with 1.867 billion people in 1990; in 2016, in addition to being affected by income poverty, 815 million people suffered from hunger; and in 2017, 1.46 billion people in 104 countries were classified as poor, 689 million of whom were children under 18 years of age, according to the global Multidimensional Poverty Index,

Recognizing that, since the holding of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the international community has shown uneven progress in the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and commitments necessary to achieve sustainable development, including eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions,

Reaffirming the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions, and reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching and essential objectives for sustainable development,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country and no one is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;[26]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system;[27]

3. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[6] and urges its full implementation;

4. *Affirms* the contributions, ongoing efforts and commitments towards the full implementation of Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[5] including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and stresses the importance of their continued implementation in the pursuit of sustainable development;

[25] Resolution 55/2.
[26] A/73/204.
[27] A/73/81-E/2018/59.

5. *Reaffirms*, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[28] all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof;

6. *Acknowledges* the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the resulting processes for the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the realization of sustainable development;

7. *Recognizes* that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development constituted a milestone that ushered in important international instruments and commitments that continue to guide progress in closing development gaps between developed and developing countries, including the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles),[29] the Convention on Biological Diversity,[30] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[29] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[31]

8. *Also recognizes* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development builds upon elements from the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, inter alia, the establishment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the format and organizational arrangements of which were later established by its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, a strengthened Economic and Social Council, as later defined in its resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, the process that led to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, as later defined in its resolutions 68/309 and 70/1, the strengthening of the science-policy interface, including in the form of the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, and the process that led to the adoption of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;

9. *Stresses* the need, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to benefit from and build on experiences, best practices, challenges and the lessons learned from the unfinished business of the previous agreements on sustainable development, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, as well as to contribute to identifying and addressing new and emerging challenges;

10. *Urges* States to continue to take concrete measures that contribute to the full and effective implementation of internationally agreed development goals and commitments in the economic, social and environmental fields since 1992, in order to support the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

11. *Invites* the high-level political forum on sustainable development to address and build on lessons learned from the unfinished business of the previous agreements on sustainable development, including the Millennium Development Goals;

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[28] Resolution 70/1.

[29] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex III.

[30] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[31] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

12. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to support the effective implementation of their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, in accordance with their respective principles and provisions, and to take effective and concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhance international cooperation;

13. *Stresses* the importance of overcoming silos and seeking innovative and coordinated approaches in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental — at the global, regional and national levels, and requests the United Nations to further mainstream and integrate the three dimensions throughout the United Nations system;

14. *Takes note with appreciation* of the actions and initiatives implemented by United Nations system entities in order to mainstream the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout their work, and encourages the system to continue to exchange experiences and lessons learned in this regard and to step up its efforts to ensure effective support to States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

15. *Urges* the United Nations development system to continue to enhance its support for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[14] the 2016 Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[15] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[18] the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,[16] Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[19] all of which are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls upon the entities of the United Nations development system to integrate and mainstream them fully into their operational activities for development;

16. *Notes* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, adopted, among other commitments on sustainable consumption and production, the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns as a tool for action on sustainable consumption and production, and in this regard, recognizes the commitment by the United Nations Environment Assembly to accelerate its implementation, including through relevant voluntary actions by Member States;

17. *Urges* the United Nations development system to intensify support for States in fully implementing the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016;[21]

18. *Emphasizes* that regional and subregional organizations have a role to play in promoting sustainable development in their respective regions by, inter alia, promoting peer learning and cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as effective linkages among global, regional, subregional and national processes, as appropriate, to advance sustainable development;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country and no one is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Reiterates* the call of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the further

mainstreaming of the three dimensions throughout the United Nations system, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made, including for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of progress in the implementation of relevant instruments and commitments emanating from Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, building on lessons learned, success stories, partnerships and their contribution to promoting integration and coherence in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development".